

On the Death of John Michael Lamb



**"I attempted suicide when I was nine years old--
as much as a nine year old can, right? I took a
whole bottle of Excedrin headache tablets, mixed
in a cup of water and drank it. I just didn't want
to live no more. But I don't blame my step-father.
Anybody that blames their crime on somebody
else--on child abuse or anything like that--that's
just an excuse"**

**"He (my stepfather) would get mad and hit
and then get madder as he hit, and if I cried,
he'd hit me more so after a while I learned not
to cry, and pretty much just toughed it out."**

"I shot a man and killed him in Greenville, Texas, off Interstate 30. I've never denied it. I had just gotten out of jail in Arkansas--one hundred days for receiving stolen property. Detective in Arkansas drove me to the county line told me to get out and don't come back. No wallet, no ID. So it's getting near dark, and I'm walking down Interstate 30. I see this shed-type thing and I say, "I'm gonna go in there and sleep." I go in and they had an arsenal--shotguns, handguns. I grabbed me two handguns and I walked down the road. I started talking to this guy standing out front of this Ramada Inn. He says "Where you headed?" I said "Dallas." He said "All right." ... and he put his hand on my leg. And I told him, "I don't go for that crap." So he got mad and told me to get out.....and I started shooting... I don't know why I shot the guy. I could have beat him up--he was half my size..."

"This is my fourth execution date... They told me about the execution four months ago... But I've done some bad things in my life and I did shoot the man, so I guess that's just the way it goes. I'm supposed to be executed next Wednesday--I believe at 6:00 at night. I believe I have until then... I'm not afraid of dying, I'm just afraid of the process."

"I don't think the man's parents are going to be there, so I'll probably just tell everybody that I've known that I'm sorry that I didn't live up to their expectations. Then I'll probably tell God that I'm sorry for disrupting His world. I'm not sorry to society, though I feel bad about the man that died, and if my death could bring him back, I'm all for it."

"But as far as society goes, how can I feel bad? I mean, all these people that say "go ahead and kill him" are no different from the people that knew my stepfather was whipping the hell out of me and my brother and my mother, and they didn't have enough guts to step up and say anything about that. Yet they got enough guts to say go ahead and kill me now. So that's how I look at it."

Then I'm going to be cremated. My mom's going to get my ashes and that'll be the end of it. You're going to die someday anyway, so it's too late to cry about it now. I guess I've been lucky to last this long.

November 17, 1999

1:30 a.m. Inmate asleep on bunk .

5:45 a.m. Inmate refused breakfast tray.

6:00 a.m. Inmate taking a shower.

6:30 a.m. Inmate throwing his property away.

9:00 a.m. Inmate watching TV.

9:30 a.m. Inmate escorted to visitation.

11:00 a.m. Inmate continues his visit with a friend.

12:00 p.m. Inmate visiting with Chaplain Brazzil.

12:15 p.m. Inmate visitation terminated.

6:01 p.m. Inmate taken from holding cell.

6:02 p.m. Inmate strapped to gurney.

6:03 p.m. Solution flowing: right arm.

6:07 p.m. Solution flowing: left arm.

6:12 p.m. Inmate gives last statement.

6:13 p.m. Lethal dose begins.

6:15 p.m. Lethal dose completed.

6:19 p.m. Inmate pronounced dead.

"I think he's exactly the type of case for which the death penalty is designed,"

Hunt County District Attorney Duncan Thomas, who prosecuted Lamb.



2000, 2007 and 2011 Lennart Grebelius

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